[2nd July 1962

Provident Fund

* 66 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether contributions by the management towards provident fund of teachers who have been paid salaries direct by Government for a year from 1st June 1959 have since been credited to their accounts and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The contributions have been credited, Sir.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I know, Sir, on what date exactly these contributions were credited and what the delay was due to?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, in June 1959 orders were issued for disbursement of salaries of teachers in elementary schools of private managements which had become non-fee-levying schools for the year 1959–60 through money orders direct through the District Educational Officer concerned. Provident Fund contributions due from the teachers were deducted by the District Educational Officer concerned from the salaries payable to the teachers and arrangements were made by them for crediting the amounts deducted to the Provident Fund Accounts of the teachers. Now the report of the Director of Public Instruction is that all managements have contributed their share and that it has been credited.

Aided elementary schools

* 67 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the items of expenditure admissible for aid in the case of aided elementary schools in the State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The maintenance grant is intended for the proper upkeep of the schools. The classification of admissible items of expenditure for assessing the grant is under consideration.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that on account of the discretion being given to the inspecting officers, most of the schools do not get as maintenance grant even 10 per cent of the assessed grant?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no such information. But the Government were of the view that there was no need to standardise the several items of expenditure that came under maintenance grant, but they have since decided to list out the various items of expenditure.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that most of these elementary school managements have of late been half-starving and is there any proposal either to nationalise the schools or to liberalise these grants?